CERMOC is dedicated to conducting social sciences research (from urban studies to anthropology, including sociology, political science, geography, economy and even contemporary history) on five Mashrek countries: Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, Palestine and Syria.

Production of a thorough knowledge

With a rather light set up – a team of about a dozen permanent researchers, a library of 20,000 volumes and an editor working with a local printing house – CERMOC has published since its reopening in 1990 some thirty books, while its researchers and associate researchers have published four to five times more articles. The Centre thus consistently contributes to the scientific knowledge of the Middle East, particularly of the three countries where its researchers are based – Lebanon, Jordan and Palestine.

In Lebanon, in spite of the Arabization and Angloization processes, CERMOC has succeeded in being present on the editorial stage. In 1999 only, four new books presented four types of research developed by the Centre:

- The proceedings of the Euro-Arab conference held at CERMOC in June 1997 under the direction of Jean Hannoyer: Guerres civiles. Economies de la violence, dimensions de la citoyenneté, de la civilité, économies de la violence, dimensions de la citoyenneté, and Défis politiques. Economies de la violence, dimensions de la citoyenneté, de la civilité, économies de la violence, dimensions de la citoyenneté.

In Jordan, before the opening of CERMOC’s research unit, French publication on this country within the social sciences was hardly developed. The book Amman, ville et société directed by Jean Hannoyer and Sometey (1996) came as a momentous event.

In 1999, three new books have been published (or are forthcoming):

- Issue 5-6 of the journal Jordaanies, dedicated to the Jordanian election of 1997.

- The proceedings of a conference held at the Institut du Monde Arabe (Paris) in June 1997, edited by Tareq Tallal and Pierre Politin in cooperation with Michel Seurat and Bernard Battoué.


CERMOC is considered a pledge of scientific cooperation amongst French, German and Mashrek researchers – a major source of scientific and societal research.

A regional dimension

Most of the current research at CERMOC is devoted to local or domestic questions and conducted by highly specialized scholars. However, scientific concerns as well as social and political realities require a broader view. The understanding of societies, lands and political realities require a broader view. The understanding of societies, lands and political realities require a broader view. However, scientific concerns as well as social and political realities require a broader view. The understanding of societies, lands and political realities require a broader view. The understanding of societies, lands and political realities require a broader view.

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